

PROCEEDINGS  
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A NEW COCKLEBUR FROM NEW MEXICO.

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My work on the plants of the region about Las Vegas has brought to light the interesting form of *Xanthium commune* Britton, described below. The first specimens collected were referred to Prof. E. O. Wooton, who was then working at Columbia University. He found that nothing of the kind was represented in the Columbia herbarium and concluded that the species was new. Upon his return to New Mexico I urged him to publish it, but he delayed, and after a couple of years we both became doubtful of the validity of the species, observing that nothing but the burs would separate it from *X. commune* (then called by us *X. canadense*). Later our doubts were confirmed when I found at Las Vegas a pair of burs, one of each kind, growing on the same twig. This specimen is now in the herbarium of the Agricultural College at Mesilla Park. Among hundreds of plants since observed, I have not seen another like it, nor have I seen a plant which could not at once be referred to one or the other form.

*Xanthium commune wootoni*, sp. nov.

Similar in all respects to *X. commune* Britton, but the burs more slender (greatest transverse diameter about 6 mm., beaks and prickles about

5½ mm.), and the prickles much less numerous (about 25 to the bur) and mostly stouter basally. Collected by the writer at Española, N. M. and Las Vegas, N. M. It occurs abundantly, always growing with *X. commune*.

Specimens of *X. c. wootoni* have been sent to Prof. E. L. Green and to Dr. P. A. Rydberg. The former said it was unknown to him, the latter considered it a new species.

It is, in fact, a species in the De Vriesian sense, of more than ordinary interest.

Las Vegas specimens sent to the U. S. National Herbarium may be regarded as the types (No. 404186). Other specimens showing leaves and flowers as well as burs, are in the Herbarium of the New York Botanical Garden and the Herbarium of the New Mexico Agricultural College.